

Content Standards Informer

Curriculum and Instruction Unit



June 2011

Communication Arts – English Language Arts

A final report was presented on May 12, 2011, to the Montana Board of Public Education by Nancy Coopersmith and Jean Howard; Superintendent Juneau requested approval of a recommendation to adopt the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) as the Montana Content Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics. The Montana Board of Public Education approved the recommendation for adoption, May 13, 2011. Notice of Public Hearing will be announced, the process for adopting standards should result in a new set of 2011 Montana Mathematics and English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects Content Standards.

The Montana Content Standards, based on the CCSS, with embedded Indian Education statements will be posted on the Office of Public Instruction Web site early June.

[Mathematics Content Standards based on Common Core](#)

[English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, and Technical Subjects](#)

With the adoption of new standards comes the change in state-wide assessment. Montana is a member of the [SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium](#). Assessment aligned to common standards for students in grades 3-8 and 11 will take place spring of 2015.

As the work begins to implement the standards and provide professional development, educators from across the state will be involved. **August 8-12, 2011** has been set aside for a three-day preparation for facilitators of statewide professional development.

Please, contact Jean Howard, jhoward@mt.gov, or Kris Goyins, kgoyins@mt.gov, if you are interested in participating on a work team.

Save the Date!

Montana Educators' Institute – June 14-16
What Students Need to Learn: 21st Century Skills
Presentors: Dr. Robert Marzano, Jim Warford and Cheryl Lemke
For more information: <http://www.mtascd.org/>

Do you have parent asking for a summer reading resource? PBS has a link:
<http://www.pbs.org/parents/read/> with summer reading tips and activities for all ages.



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A fun Web site for students and teachers, Giggle Poetry:

<http://www.gigglepoetry.com/index.aspx>. This site provides links to hundreds of poems on many different topics that you can read and rate.

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Early Grades

Ready2Read

Children prepare to read long before they enter school-early literacy is everything children know about reading and writing before they can actually read and write. Spend some time at the [Ready2Read](http://ready2readmontana.org/R2R-flash-main.html) site to learn more about interacting with young children through language and literature:

<http://ready2readmontana.org/R2R-flash-main.html>

Ready2Read Goes Wild

The Montana State Library (MSL) and Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP) have formed a partnership to provide communities throughout Montana with a unique learning opportunity that unites the distinct missions of each agency together.

The Ready 2 Read Goes Wild! trunk provides childcare providers, preschools, early elementary educators, parents and caregivers an opportunity to share language, literacy, learning, and nature with some of Montana's youngest citizens, children from ages three – seven years old.

http://ready2readmontana.org/goes_wild/

Rediscover your Public Library by Reading Rockets (2009)

For families with young children, the public library is a great place to find entertainment, educational or cultural enrichment, or valuable information.

Top Nine reasons to go Visit

1. Free programs and activities: From author visits to puppet shows to family films, libraries offer programs with kid appeal after school, on the weekends, and during the summer. Ask your librarian for the schedule of upcoming events.
2. Story times: There's nothing like hearing a good story read by someone who loves to read aloud. Libraries are terrific settings for story times which often include finger plays, games, songs, and crafts that can be learned and enjoyed again at home.



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3. Workshops: Many libraries offer workshops that can help enrich your life as an adult and support you as a parent. At many libraries, it is possible to learn to knit, prepare your taxes, update your resume', gain computer skills, or improve your parenting skills.
4. Books: Librarians are happy to make recommendations and most public libraries have a special section just for children's books.
5. Audiobooks: Listened to a good book lately? Most libraries have a collection of popular adult and children's titles available for checkout on tape or CD.
6. Movies: Your public library is a great source for free access to the latest blockbusters, family movie classics, documentaries, or favorite TV shows.
7. Music: Want to introduce your children to Beethoven or the Beatles or new children's songs? Check to see if your library has a collection of music on CD.
8. Magazines and newspapers: Introduce your child to some of the magazines designed just for children. With bold photographs, poems and a joke or two, magazines are another reading choice for beginning readers. Or catch up on the news in your community and share a smile over the comics.
9. Computers: Most public libraries offer free Internet access, computers with educational games for kids, and valuable online resources for teenagers.

Early Childhood Professional Development

Western Montana Early Childhood Institute
Salish Kootenai College Pablo, Montana
June 16-18, 2011

June 16-17 : Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) for Early Childhood Educators (\$100 per person)

June 18 LETRS Training of Trainers (\$40 per person)

June 18 Early Childhood Breakout Sessions (\$20 per person)

- CSEFEL Preschool Module 1-Sherrie Smith & Deanna Macklin
- Technology in Early Childhood-Terri Barclay
- The Brain and Development-Cindy O'Dell
- Love & Logic-Sharon & Roger Dibrito
- Transitioning from Part C to B-Dani McCarthy & Erica Swanson
- Trauma Informed Educational Environments-Amy Foster Wolferman
- Building Early Literacy in Young children-Amy Foster Wolferman
- Native American Literature for Early Childhood-Teresa Veltkamp

Register at www.cspd.net

Montana Behavioral Initiative (MBI)

MSU-Bozeman, Montana
June 21-24, 2011

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Take part in the many early childhood specific sessions at this year's conference!

Register at <https://toto.msu.montana.edu/cs/mbi2011/registration>

Montana Early Childhood Project

The Early Childhood Project (ECP) located at Montana State University Bozeman is dedicated to improving the quality of programs and services for Montana's young children and their families.

Check out the short publications that address frequently asked questions related to early care and education career development. Feel free to print, copy and distribute as necessary!

<http://www.mtecp.org/pubs.html>

Terry Barclay, Early Grades Curriculum Specialist
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Library-Information Literacy

SAVE THE DATES!

Teacher-Librarian Bootcamp 2011

This 3-day session will focus on building standards-based information literacy curriculum, assessment and instruction.

What to Bring: laptop, curriculum documents, lesson plans, sunscreen, water toys and your sunny dispositions!

- [Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry Lake](#)
- July 11-14, 2011
- Please RSVP to Sheri Harlow (sharlow@mt.gov) by June 24th.
- 21 OPI Renewal Units will be available

Food and lodging will be provided. There will be no registration fee for the Teacher-Librarian Bootcamp. Transportation costs will not be reimbursed. Contact Colet Bartow (cbartow@mt.gov) for questions.

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[Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources](#) Workshops:

Miles City Workshop, July 25-26

Helena Workshop, July 28-29

The NCCE planning committee has tentatively set these dates and locations for two-day workshops for educators (teacher-librarians and other teachers). Pairs of teacher-librarians and other teachers are highly encouraged to apply together.

Each location will have seats for a maximum of 30 participants. * OPI renewal units will be granted. * There will be an application form available soon that will be sent via the SLMD and WIRED listservs and will be posted to my wiki.

There is no cost for the workshop, but travel expenses will be the participant's responsibility. A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided each day.

Please check your e-mail or my wiki <<http://www.opi.mt.gov/groups/mtl>> for the application form and further details when they are available.

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Mathematics



Teacher Exchange Program - Ukraine

By Beth Thomas – middle school
educator in Great Falls



I was notified a year ago that I was selected to travel as a fellow in the year 2011. I traveled to the community of Novoukrainka, Ukraine from April 16 to April 30, 2011. The opportunity allowed me to co-teach and share best practices with Liuda, my host teacher. She teaches English and her student's range in age from 9-17. Liuda and I worked with and taught students about American holidays, Problem-solving strategies, Yellowstone National Park, and Ecology/Water.

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I spent a day leading professional development with Ukrainian English teachers with the following Assessment Strategies and Increasing comprehension (vocabulary and reading strategies).

However, this exchange was really about all of my students at North Middle School and my community being able to learn about another culture while sharing our culture, ultimately gaining a global perspective. Besides being able to Skype with two of my classes, the students on my team exchanged writing, "culture," and reading experiences.

I invite you to embrace this opportunity by reading/commenting on my blog and see the glorious pictures <http://beththomas.edublogs.org/>. It was an incredible experience for my students and me personally – I would highly recommend it!

Opportunities for Educators to Apply

The link for the program application and more information is below; new cycle applications are due June 15th. The name has been changed to Teachers for Global Classrooms Program (TGC).

<http://www.irex.org/project/teachers-global-classrooms-program-tcg>



All students in grade 8 or higher are invited and High school teachers are invited too.

Inquiry-based exploration and group problem solving will be emphasized; this means hands- on activities not lectures!

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All 8-12 Graders and High School Teachers are invited.

Math Day

September 23, 2011

Students, who enjoy solving puzzles, figuring out things, and learning mathematics, come and bring a friend to **Math Day** - a one-day event which will be held on Friday, September 23, 2011, at the University of Montana. Students can come on their own or with their



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teachers. The day will run the approximate length of the school day; it will include small workshops on various math topics, a career panel and lunch. Please register early for this event.

Missoula Math Circle

Session 1: October 6 – December 15, 2011

Session 2: January – March 2012

Missoula **Math Circle** is an after-school activity in which math topics are explored in more depth. The activities are broken up into two sessions (fall and winter), each with six meeting times (see Web for details). Students work with UM math graduate students and faculty in a stimulating and challenging environment. Problem-solving and self-guided learning will be enjoyed by all! Enrollment is limited, early registration is encouraged.

Program and Application Information: <http://www.math.umt.edu/mathcircle/>

Application Deadline: One week prior to the event.

Instructors: UM Professors and Graduate Students

Information: Web: <http://www.math.umt.edu/mathcircle/> E-mail: mathcircle@mso.umt.edu

Organizers: Professor Jenny McNulty * 243-2473 * jenny.mcnulty@umontana.edu
Professor Kelly McKinnie * 243-5694 * kelly.mckinnie@umontana.edu



A free world-class education for anyone anywhere. [Khan Academy](http://www.khanacademy.org)

The Khan Academy is a not-for-profit with the goal of changing education for the better by providing a free world-class education to anyone anywhere. The materials and resources are completely free. [Amazing Resource](#) The extensive video library, practice exercises, and assessments from any computer with access to the Web is:

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1. Complete custom self-paced learning tool
 2. A dynamic system for getting help
 3. A custom profile, points, and badges to measure progress
- <http://www.khanacademy.org/about>

Coaches, parents, and teachers have unprecedented visibility into what their students are learning and doing on the Khan Academy.

1. Ability to see any student in detail
 2. A real-time class report for all students
 3. Better intelligence for doing targeted interventions
- <http://www.khanacademy.org/about>

Edutopia's [**Summer Rejuvenation Guide: 10 Tips to Help You Relax, Reflect, and Recharge for the Coming School Year**](#) might be a useful resource. The links from WorldWide Telescope to Teacher-Tested Travel Grants are very good. Download your copy today at [**edutopia.org/summer-rejuvenation-classroom-resource-guide.**](http://edutopia.org/summer-rejuvenation-classroom-resource-guide) [**Sign up for our free weekly e-newsletter.**](#) *Edutopia News* highlights what works in education by delivering some of the newest content and resources from Edutopia.org directly to your in-box. ([View the latest issue.](#))

Think about entering your students in National Challenges. They could be winners like these eighth graders.

<http://www.greatfallsbtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2011105120313> Eighth-grade science students from Our Lady of Lourdes are national finalists in a **Siemens Foundation environmental challenge**. Team members, from left: Annie Shane, Tasha Schalin, Carter Anderson and Abby Vanderkolk stand with Kerry Vanderkolk, science teacher. / TRIBUNE PHOTO/KRISTEN CATES

Middle School students from Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School in Great Falls are finalists for a national science award recognition and competition.

The school's "Jus' Recycle" team of Annie Shane, Abby Vanderkolk, Tasha Schalin and Carter Anderson are state winners in the Siemens Foundation "We can Change the World Challenge" because of a recycling awareness program they started.

The challenge is a partnership between the Siemens Foundation, Discovery Education and the National Science Teachers Association. More than 2,800 middle school students participated in the challenge this year.

"It is important to showcase projects like 'Jus' Recycle' that exemplify the creative perspectives middle school students have toward environmental change. In their project, 'Jus' Recycle' made a difference by creatively researching recycling behaviors in order to change the recycling behaviors in their community," said Jeniffer Harper-Taylor, President of the Siemens Foundation. "The Siemens Foundation and its partners are proud to honor these students and their mentors for ingenuity, originality and their efforts to initiate real environmental change."

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"Jus' Recycle" already won a Siemens "We Can Change the World Challenge" green prize pack and is in the running for the grand prize of a \$10,000 Savings Bond, a Discovery Adventures trip to Costa Rica and a pocket video camera.

For more information on the challenge, the state finalists and their projects, go online to www.wecanchange.com.

Achieve's *Math Works* advocacy kit provides resources that make the case for why all students—regardless of their plans after graduation—should engage in rigorous math course-taking throughout their high school experiences. The *Math Works* materials—ranging from fact sheets, PowerPoint presentations, brochures and others—is a resource for policymakers, advocates, educators, parents and students alike that demonstrates the connection between higher-level mathematics course-taking and college access and success, workplace and career readiness, and personal and U.S. competitiveness.

At its core, *Math Works* seeks to answer the age-old question familiar to any mathematics educator: Do I really need to learn this, will it help my future and will I ever use it again? The short answer is yes, yes and yes.

Math Works Materials

Fact Sheets: A series of one-page fact sheets focusing on specific arguments for advanced math course-taking in high school, such as *All Students Need Advanced Math*, *Advanced Math Equals Career Readiness* and *Advanced Math: Closing the Equity Gap*.

PowerPoint Presentation: Each fact sheet will have a complementary PowerPoint Presentation.

Mathematics at Work Brochures: The Mathematics at Work brochures present case studies drawn from leading industries nationwide – such as Information Technology, Advanced Manufacturing and Civil Engineering Technology – to illustrate the advanced mathematics knowledge and skills embedded in jobs that offer opportunities for advancement and are accessible to high school graduates.

Policy Paper: *The Building Blocks of Success: Higher-Level Math for All Students* synthesizes the current research base on why math is so important to all students, how it serves as a foundation for higher-order thinking, improves access and success in college and careers and benefits individuals as well as the U.S. economy.

Math Research Resource Bank: An annotated resource bank of mathematics related studies, reports and other resources.

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All materials are available **free** of charge on our Web site and are also available in hard copy, along with a custom *Math Works* folder, upon request. [Math Works](#). May 16, 2011



The 31st Annual MASP Summer Institute — June 12–14, 2011 – Billings, MT

Parts and "Holes"

Gaps in Children's Mathematics Achievement

One of the world's leading authorities on how children develop understanding of mathematics, [Michèle M.M. Mazocco](#) is a professor at [Johns Hopkins School of Medicine](#). She is the principal investigator for the Math Skills Development Project at the [Kennedy Krieger School](#). With Daniel B. Berch, she is the co-editor of [Why Is Math So Hard for Some Children?: The Nature and Origins of Mathematical Learning Difficulties and Disabilities](#), a respected book that provides, in the words of one fan, "an exceptional review of literature on LD in maths."

You may complete the [online registration](#). Alternately, you may download, print, and mail your [registration form](#). <http://www.masponline.us/registration>

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Science

Looking Ahead to the Conceptual Framework for Science Education

Many educators are looking forward to the release of the final version of the Conceptual Framework for Science Education. The Framework, developed by the National Research Council, was released to the public for comment in its draft version last summer and is currently undergoing revisions. The National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) has begun a new Web series and its first installment takes an early look at the soon-to-be



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released framework. Take a look ... [Anticipating the Conceptual Framework for Science Education](#)

Want to Find a New Way to Show Videos to Your Students Without Fear of Inappropriate Content, Comments or Blocked Access?

Educational content abounds on YouTube, but so does inappropriate content and many school districts have blocked access to the site for this reason. [VuSafe](#), a free video library service from M86 security helps teachers find, organize, and safely share appropriate videos from YouTube and other video sites in the classroom. The service removes outside content from the sites, eliminating access to inappropriate comments and advertisements. You will now be able to use YouTube in your classroom even if the site is blocked in your school! Try it out!

The Following are all FREE Resources!

Lesson Plans for Students in Grades 3-5

[TurfMutt](#) offers science lesson plans for students in grades 3-5, as well as educational videos, activities, and puzzles that encourage environmental stewardship. Students can sign up to receive an environmental newsletter, participate in ecofriendly projects and contests for schools, and learn about U.S. ecosystems on an interactive map. Check out this terrific resource!



A Resource to Help You Focus on the "E" in STEM

Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, or STEM, continues to be an area of focus both in Montana and nationwide. Many educators are well-versed in what science, technology, and mathematics are but what about engineering? How can engineering be implemented in the classroom, especially an elementary classroom? The [eGFI Newsletter for Teachers](#) is a free resource with ideas, projects, lesson plans, professional workshops and much, much more. Created by the [American Society for Engineering Education \(ASEE\)](#), teachers will find a variety of tools to boost students' math and science skills, enliven the classroom with engineering projects, and expand their professional horizons. [Subscribe](#) now and the newsletter will arrive in your in-box every week!





Videos to Help Your Students in Math and Science!

The [Khan Academy](https://www.khanacademy.org/) is a not-for-profit organization committed to changing education by providing a free world-class education to anyone anywhere. Khan offers access to thousands of free videos, practice exercises, and assessments that cover K-12 math, and science topics such as biology, chemistry and physics. Each video is a digestible chunk that lasts approximately 10 minutes. Use these videos to support topics you've already taught- students can view them for days they were absent from class or to review concepts they didn't understand. They are completely free! Check them out by browsing the [Khan Academy library](https://www.khanacademy.org/library).

High School Chemistry Curriculum Resource

The Dow Corporation and The Keystone Center for Education introduce students to global sustainability and chemistry's role in developing long-lasting solutions. It features 10 interdisciplinary lessons that involve students in discussions about the importance of considering people, their needs, and their environment. Check out this great **free** resource at [The Balanced Equation](https://www.thebalancedequation.org/).

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